Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Habitat Data Update for the MLPA North Coast Study Region

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Key Habitats in the North Coast

Shoreline

- rocky shores
- sandy beaches
- surfgrass

Rocky reef

- rocky reef 0-30m
- rocky reef 30-100m
- rocky reef 100-200m
- rocky reef >200m
- kelp forests
- pinnacles

Estuarine

- coastal marsh
- · tidal flats
- estuarine waters
- eelgrass

Soft bottom

- soft bottom 0-30m
- soft bottom 30-100m
- soft bottom 100-200m
- soft bottom >200m
- submarine canyons

Pelagic habitats

- upwelling centers
- retention zones
- river plumes
- oceanographic fronts

Note: blue habitats have special data considerations or limitations

m = meter

2

3



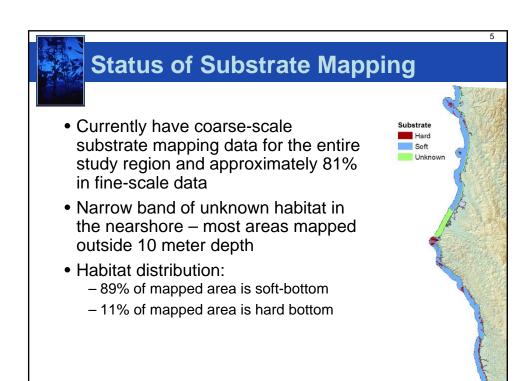
Updates to Habitat Data

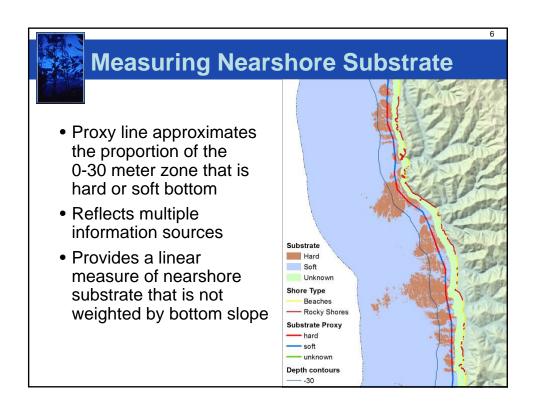
- Offshore rocks now mapped with measurable shoreline length; however, rocks that occur further offshore are not well mapped
- Additional fine-scale substrate mapping now available, totaling 81% of the study region
- Nearshore proxy for measuring 0-30 meter rock and soft bottom has been generated for 92% of the study region, wherever fine-scale substrate is available
- Confirmed presence/ absence of eelgrass in all north coast estuaries
- Oceanographic features are not yet mapped

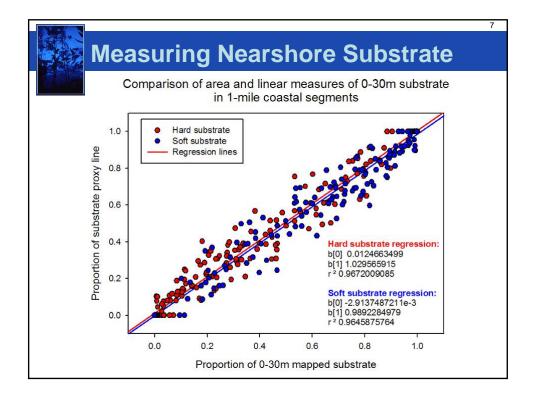
Mapping: Offshore Rocks

- Mapping of offshore rocks is slightly inconsistent and may over- or underestimate shoreline length
- Rocks also mapped in shoreline layer have been removed from offshore rock layer to avoid doublecounting











Eelgrass Locations

- Eelgrass well mapped in Humboldt Bay
- Additionally, eelgrass is known to occur in 7 other locations:
 - Smith River estuary
 - Crescent City harbor
 - Eel River estuary
 - Ten Mile River estuary
 - Noyo River estuary
 - -Big River estuary
 - Albion River estuary
- Eelgrass has been confirmed absent in all other north coast estuaries

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